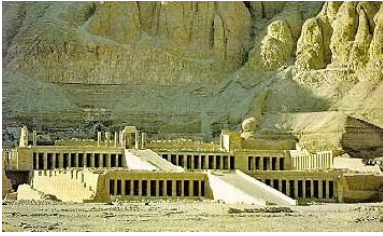


DESERT ARCHITECTURE

Creating shelter in a hot, arid and inhospitable climate has been a challenge faced by cultures for thousands of years. The most famous desert structures still standing are the temples and pyramids of ancient Egypt. Although these buildings were constructed as palaces or burial sites for royalty and not as homes for the average citizen, they still provide great insight into design methods that are more effective in a desert environment.



In the American Southwest, many early desert structures were constructed from adobe clay and boulders. Dwellings were often clustered into a group or were nestled into a hillside or rocky canyon wall.



The natural topography of the desert and the challenges it poses have inspired many artists, painters and architects. In the latter part of his career, architect Frank Lloyd Wright built a studio in Scottsdale, Arizona, that he named Taliesin West (*left*). The house was built by Wright's students from natural materials taken from the site.



In the middle of the 20th century, architects introduced American suburbs to Modernism, a style of architecture influenced by Wright's organic designs, the International Style, and the German Bauhaus. Featuring bands of floor-to-ceiling windows and open floor plans that connected the interior spaces to the outdoors, Modernism was ideally suited to the sunny

California climate. California Modernism flourished in the developing desert community of Palm Springs, which is home to many mid-20th century modern classic homes and buildings by the architects Albert Frey (*above left*), Donald Wexler, and Richard Neutra (*right*).

